

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-15. (cancelled)

16. (new) A continuous intermediate image carrier for an electrophotographic printer or copier wherein an electrical conductivity of the intermediate image carrier in a thickness direction between two opposite measurement points is smaller than between two laterally-offset measurement points on opposite sides of the intermediate image carrier.

17. (new) An intermediate image carrier according to claim 16 wherein a toner image made up of electrically-charged toner particles and present on an image carrier can be transferred onto the intermediate image carrier in a first transfer printing region, and the transferred toner image can be transferred from the intermediate image carrier onto a final image carrier.

18. (new) An intermediate image carrier according to claim 16 wherein the electrical conductivity of the intermediate image carrier between the laterally-offset measurement points is at least so great that an ignition voltage of a gas discharge is prevented between the intermediate image carrier and an image carrier from which a toner image is transferred to the intermediate image carrier.

19. (new) An intermediate image carrier according to claim 16 wherein the electrical conductivity of the intermediate image carrier between the two laterally-offset measurement points is at least so low that a sufficiently large electrical field can be generated for transfer of a toner image from the intermediate image carrier onto a final image carrier as well as from an image carrier onto the intermediate image carrier.

20. (new) An intermediate image carrier according to claim 16 wherein electrical conductivity of the intermediate image carrier between the two substantially opposite measurement points is at least so low that partial discharges on a surface of the intermediate image carrier are prevented.

21. (new) An intermediate image carrier according to claim 16 wherein the electrical conductivity of the intermediate image carrier transverse to an outside major surface in a direction of a plane of the carrier is at least so low that a sufficiently large electrical field for transfer of a toner image can be generated at a transfer printing point for transfer of the toner image.

22. (new) An intermediate image carrier according to claim 16 wherein the laterally-offset measurement points are arranged offset in at least one of an outside major surface direction or transverse to the outside major surface.

23. (new) An intermediate image carrier according to claim 22 wherein the conductivity between the measurement points transverse to the outside major surface direction is smaller than a transverse resistance between measurement points in the outside major surface direction.

24. (new) An intermediate image carrier according to claim 16 wherein the intermediate image carrier is a transfer belt or a transfer drum.

25. (new) An intermediate image carrier according to claim 17 wherein the image carrier is a photoconductor.

26. (new) An intermediate image carrier according to claim 17 wherein a plurality of toner images can be transferred from the image carrier onto the intermediate image carrier in a first operating mode, said toner images being substantially printed atop one another on the intermediate image carrier, and the toner images printed atop one another can be mutually transferred onto the final image carrier in a second operating mode.

27. (new) An intermediate image carrier according to claim 16 wherein a specific electrical resistance of the intermediate image carrier in a thickness direction has a value in a range from $1 \text{ E} + 10 \text{ } \Omega\text{cm}$ to $1 \text{ E} + 12 \text{ } \Omega\text{cm}$.

28. (new) An intermediate image carrier according to claim 27 wherein the specific electrical resistance can be determined with aid of a first electrical contact surface on a top side of the intermediate image carrier and a second contact surface substantially opposite the first contact surface on an underside of the intermediate image carrier, a measurement voltage being 800 volts direct voltage.

29. (new) An intermediate image carrier according to claim 16 wherein the electrical conductivity of the intermediate image carrier on a surface thereof is at least so great that an electrical flashover is prevented between the intermediate image carrier and a further image carrier.

30. (new) An intermediate image carrier according to claim 16 wherein an electrical resistance of the intermediate image carrier between the two laterally-offset measurement points on opposite sides of the intermediate image carrier has a value in a range between $1 \text{ E} + 7 \text{ } \Omega\text{cm}$ and $1 \text{ E} + 11 \text{ } \Omega\text{cm}$.

31. (new) A continuous intermediate image carrier for an electrophotographic printer or copier wherein an electrical conductivity of the intermediate image carrier in a thickness direction between two opposite measurement points directly across from each other is smaller than between two laterally-offset measurement points on opposite sides of the intermediate image carrier.

32. (new) A continuous intermediate image carrier for an electrophotographic printer or copier wherein an electrical conductivity of the intermediate image carrier in a thickness direction between two opposite measurement points directly across from each other is smaller than on a transverse path between two laterally-offset measurement points on opposite sides of the intermediate image carrier, and wherein a toner image of electrically charged toner particles is on the intermediate image carrier.